



Objection 181

Brian J Bergin

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From: Brian Bergin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 June 2024 4:44 PM
To: FedRedistribution - VIC
Subject: Electorate of Higgins

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To whom it may concern

I do NOT support the AEC's suggestion that the electorate of Higgins be abolished in the next redistribution.

All Australians should support a push to retain the Division of Higgins and my reasons are as follows:

- The historical context and impact of the Higgins name spans from the very early post-Federation period to contemporary Australia.
- In 1907 Justice Henry Higgins of the Arbitration Court, adjudged a fair and reasonable wage to be 7 shillings a day for a labourer, and that judgement formed the basis of the basic wage and minimum wage measures which thereafter underpinned Australia's economic development from those earliest Federation days to the present.
- That judgement by Henry Higgins had an immensely significant impact which was shared by all Australians across the whole of the nation, and thus the continuation of the Division of Higgins should be seen as a shared recognition of that national interest.
- Fair and reasonable are concepts and measures that are now seen to be traditionally embedded in the Australian ethos.
- Henry Higgins had earlier served as a Foundation Member elected to Australia's First Parliament, and that important link to our Inaugural Federal Election should continue to be recognised.
- Also, Henry Higgins later served as a longstanding Justice of the High Court of Australia.
- Higgins has the notable and unique distinction of two former Members having served as Prime Ministers.
- Higgins has also provided two Treasurers, including by a significant margin, Australia's longest serving Treasurer.
- The significant status of Justice Henry Higgins, as well as the parliamentary history of the seat, should be recognised and supported by all political parties that have held or contested that seat – the push to retain Higgins is not a partisan issue.
- It is also so very important that the City of Stonnington, being a solid Community of Interests, should not be divided and spread across 5 Federal electorates – and that Stonnington interests continue to be represented through a SINGLE Federal Member in Canberra.

With respect the AEC should consider another division in place of Higgins.

Brian

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